

# Beloved species from Canada's wetlands

## NORTHERN PITCHER PLANT

*Sarracenia purpurea*

- ⊕ Preys on ants, flies, spiders, and moths. Small vertebrates, like juvenile salamanders, may also be digested in the pitchers.
- ⊕ Lures prey with sweet-smelling nectar that emanates from the rim of the pitcher.
- ⊕ Ensures its prey stay put — the pitcher rim is slippery and it has downward-pointing hairs inside, making escape very difficult for insects that fall in.
- ⊕ Collects rainwater in the base of its pitchers, where bacteria and some lucky invertebrates can survive, forming a symbiotic relationship with the plant.
- ⊕ These invertebrates, along with digestive enzymes and collected rainwater, dissolve prey trapped inside.
- ⊕ Can thrive in nutrient-deficient soils because they also absorb nutrients from their prey.
- ⊕ Is the provincial flower of Newfoundland and Labrador.

